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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8481
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL//J5/J2/POLAD//

UNCLAS PANAMA 001289

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PM](#)
SUBJECT: PANAMA REQUESTS NOTE EXCHANGE FOR PANAMAX

[11](#). (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 3.

[12](#). (SBU) Panama has requested a diplomatic note exchange for the August PANAMAX exercise. The note does not suggest any change to our existing policy; it essentially puts on paper what has always taken place in practice. The GOP wants this note for political cover in case it comes under criticism for hosting PANAMAX. The note allows the GOP to say it is in charge of PANAMAX and the exercise is taking place because the GOP wants it. Embassy forwarded the proposed text to the Department June 29.

[13](#). (U) Embassy asks that the Department review the text for clearance as soon as possible.

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